

# Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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## Community Services

### Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Sports Park staff conducted Event Specialist interviews on 1/8/15 for the upcoming 2015 Spring Training Season.

The Charlotte Sports Park staff will be conducting the final round of Event Specialist interviews on 1/15/15 for the upcoming 2015 Spring Training Season.

Tickets for the 2015 Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training Season will go on sale in the stadium box office on Saturday, 1/17/15, at 10:00 am.

### Harold Avenue

The participants of the Youth Basketball Summer League completed week 6 of the current season over the weekend. Currently there is only one undefeated team in the entire league. The competition is fierce and the players are ready to play making for an interesting season and upcoming playoffs. The league games are held every Saturday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. and every Sunday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. bringing in over 900 spectators to the building. The Youth Basketball League has 10 regular season games plus a post season series.

### Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

This last week was the start of the Charlotte County Promenaders! They started off with 75 enthusiastic Square Dancers. We expect this number to continue to grow through the season.

Coming up this weekend we will have two rentals on the 17th in Room A. The first is a memorial for 30, in the morning and the second is a Surprise Party for 35 in the Afternoon.

For the week of 12-31-14 through 1-6-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 232 paid admissions, was visited by 38 pass holders and had 76 water aerobics participants. The pool was closed Thursday January 1st, for the New Year Holiday.

For the week of 1-7 through 1-13-15, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 109 paid admissions, was visited by 22 pass holders and had 90 water aerobics participants.

### South County Regional Park and Pool

South County Regional Park Pool is still closed for renovations. 1-4-15 through 1-10-15 we had 7 pass holders swim at the Port Charlotte High School Pool.

### Oyster Creek Regional Pool

For the week of 1-4-15 to 1-10-15 Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool had 96 paid admissions, 81 water aerobics participants and was visited by 61 pass holders.

### Historical Center

On December 17, 2014, the Christmas on the River program at East Elementary in Punta Gorda reached 120 children and 5 adults.

### Extension Service

Newspaper Article for January 12 – "Canna I grow it?"

State Agricultural Response Team (SART) Training – January 12 - 14 – Kissimmee, FL

Landscape Gardening Series – January 16 – "Palms"

Home and Garden Show – Event Center – January 17 and 18 – Theme – "Florida Flowering Bulbs – Corms, Tubers and Bulbs, Oh My!"

## **Facilities Construction & Maintenance**

### **Repairs and Maintenance**

New LED lighting and ceiling tiles have been installed throughout the entire Tringali Recreation Center. The new lighting will provide improved light output and substantial energy savings.

### **Operations**

Facilities building supervisor at Murdock is working with plumbing contractor to implement preventive maintenance and repairs to sanitation vent system.

### **Project Management**

The pre-construction meeting was held for the Port Charlotte Beach Park pier and boardwalk rehabilitation project and the Notice to Proceed is scheduled for Feb 11.

Contractor applied for the building permit for the Harbour Heights Park drainage, parking and sports courts improvement project. Continuation of this project is pending final decision at January 22 meeting of the Development Review Committee.

Consulting engineer met with Facilities and Community Services staff to review shoreline restoration options for Bayshore Live Oak Park.

## **Human Services**

This week at the Board of County Commissioners meeting the Board approved a lease with the Parents in Action, Inc. a non-profit agency that provides support services for families with children who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities. Parents in Action will occupy rental space at the County's Family Services Center located on Gibraltar Drive in the Parkside area of Port Charlotte.

211 met with the Early Learning Coalition to discuss the Help Me Grow Florida project as a way to provide information and referrals in promoting healthy development for children in Florida. This is a statewide initiative under development which will have 211 call centers working with the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. and the Florida Department of Education's Office of Early Learning.

## **Public Safety**

This week station 7 placed in-service A-72, a new 1500 gallon P-7 aircraft rescue apparatus. This apparatus was ordered 11 months ago to expand the airport fire coverage to two (2) ARFF Units. Since last January the airport has been leasing a used apparatus to fulfil the FAA requirements.

The new apparatus is an E-One along the same line as our other unit, with many improvements and upgrades. Personnel trained last week with E-One to become familiar with the new unit and will continue to over the next several weeks. The unit was purchased by the Punta Gorda Airport through an FAA Grant.



## Public Works

**Active Construction Projects** (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

**DeSoto Canal Bank Restoration and Stabilization Phase 2** - Subsequent to clearing the canal banks it was discovered that the slopes had degraded resulting in erosion. Design and reconstruction of the slopes is necessary to prevent future degradation. Phase 2 includes the continuation of bank restoration to Harbor View Road and consists of installing an Anchor Reinforced Vegetation System (ARVS) along the west bank of the DeSoto Canal. Construction Contract: Marine Contracting Group, Construction Schedule: 11/10/2014 – 6/1/2015

Clearing and grubbing of vegetation for the full length of the project area is complete; delays due to scrub jay nesting season are not anticipated in the spring of 2015. The Contractor is placing pipe and fill at the north end of the project site and is working south.

Erosion control matting installation is underway and will continue down the length of the canal banks within the project limits. As erosion control matting is installed, sod will follow behind the placement of the matting.

**Newgate Waterway Spoil Removal** - The Newgate Waterway has several large silt deposits and overgrown vegetation within the limits of the water line. This accumulated material is causing an adverse impact on the stormwater conveyance system and needs to be removed. Approximately 8,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from the waterway approximately 3,400 feet from Jennings Boulevard to east of David Boulevard. Construction Contract: Gator Dredging, Construction Schedule: 12/22/2014 – 04/21/2015.

The gopher tortoise permit and reservations for the relocation ranch were obtained; gopher tortoise excavation and relocation is complete and lots have been cleared. Equipment is on-site and dredging will begin by Jan. 16, 2015.

**Oyster Creek Flow Enhancement** - This project provides for the removal of exotic vegetation including, but not limited to, Brazilian Pepper, Primrose Willow, Cattails, dead vegetation and trash from approximately 19 acres of land within the flow ways of Oyster Creek, Gondolier Waterway and Early Waterway. This project is funded by the West Charlotte Stormwater District. Construction Contract: EarthBalance Corporation of North Port, FL, Construction Schedule: Early 2015 – Summer 2015. Notice to Proceed was established for Jan. 15, 2015; work will begin in the Gondolier Waterway.

**Stormwater Control Structure Replacement - Dorchester Waterway at Kenilworth DOR 4.89** - This project provides for the design, permitting, and construction of a stormwater control structure under Kenilworth Boulevard at the Dorchester Waterway. As a result of the Stormwater Master Plan that was completed in 1998, it was determined that many of the existing water control structures were either undersized or had deteriorated since the 1960's when they were originally built. This particular structure collapsed in late November 2013. This structure will be upsized from two culverts to two 8'x10' box culverts. Construction Contract: Lovin Construction, Construction Schedule: 9/15/2014 – 12/31/2014.

Construction was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Final as-built plans have been submitted and approved by the Engineer of Record.

**Sunshine Lake / Sunrise Waterway Algae Removal** – Sunshine Lake has had a habitual issue with an algae problem. Based on the water quality study that was completed, it was determined that the next course of action to help correct the problem would be to dredge the algae from the lake. After the lake is dredged, recharge wells and a downstream weir will be installed (via separate contracts) in order to maintain active water flow and water levels through the lake. Construction Contract: Prolime Services, Projected Schedule: 01/14/2013 – 01/01/2015

Algae removal is complete. The contractor is removing equipment and restoring the site and should be done with this portion by Jan. 31, 2015. Once the contractor is finished, the County shall initiate installation of a recharge well at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second recharge well adjacent to McGuire Park.

Engineering staff received a SWFWMD permit for the installation of a weir structure located at the downstream end of the lake/canal system and is developing a scope of services and construction costs to seek both funds

and authorization from County Administration and the BCC to proceed.

Charlotte County Engineering is working with Atkins Engineering on a management plan that includes, but is not limited to, reviewing all work completed and planned, conducting a nutrient analysis to determine the source of the nutrients and creating a plan that will keep the algae from returning to the system.

An interim report of the water quality data collected to date has been completed and is on the website under "hot topics" for review. Based on the information found, additional work has been proposed by Atkins which is included in the report.

### **Construction Projects in Design or Negotiation**

**2015 County Paving Program** - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte, Parkside, Deep Creek, and the Road & Bridge Districts. Construction Contract: TBD, Construction Schedule: Early 2015 – Late 2015.

Upon receipt and review of bids, a recommendation to award the paving contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Feb. 10, 2015.

**South Gulf Cove Bridge Repairs** – This project consists of Bridge repairs needed in South Gulf Cove based on the 2013 Florida Department of Transportation Bridge Inspection Report. The St. Paul Drive Bridge over the Zephyr Waterway has one pile with delamination at each of the four corners with evidence of corrosion bleed-out on the northwest corner that needs to be repaired. The Ingraham Boulevard Bridge over the President's Waterway has two piles that have experienced section loss within the wet/dry zone due to the corrosivity of the blackish water and are in need of repair. Design Contract: American Consulting Professionals, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/01/2014 – 12/31/2014, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: 5/2015.

County staff members are currently reviewing the 100% design plans and technical specifications; final plan approval is anticipated by Jan. 31, 2015.

### **Coastal Projects**

**Alligator Creek Dredging** – The Alligator Creek Waterway MSBU Committee requested that the County design and apply for a permit to dredge the navigable waterways within the Alligator Creek MSBU to a depth of -6 feet MLW. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time may be required to negotiate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to issue permits for the dredging within the Alligator Creek to more than a depth of -5 feet, which is the depth for the current permit. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 01/06/2013 – Spring 2015, Procurement Process: Spring 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2015.

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) combined the -5' MLW Maintenance Dredging project with the proposed -6' MLW project even though they are different in their scope. The ACOE issued their public notice and received one request for additional information from National Marine Fisheries specific to Essential Fish Habitat. Coastal Engineering Consultants responded to the ACOE, supplying them with the requested data.

The FDEP permit was received for the -6ft MLW project which includes public interest in the form of purchasing and donating an YSI Water Quality Monitor to the Friends of CHAP.

**Buena Vista Grassy Point Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - Maintenance dredging provides continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral channels and 500 feet into the interior canals to determine the amount of material needed to be removed to restore safe navigation. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 02/01/2014 – Early 2015, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Spring 2015

The permit application was submitted to FDEP on July 23, 2014. FDEP issued their permit but had to send the application to the ACOE. Consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is underway for the presence of the Smalltooth Sawfish. A request for additional information was received from NMFS on Jan. 12, 2015 regarding seagrass in the areas adjacent to the channel. Johnson Engineering is preparing a response to provide the requested data.

**Gulf Cove Waterway Maintenance Dredging** - Maintenance dredging provides continued safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge the lateral/access channels. The amount of material to be removed will be determined as engineering and design progresses. The project includes the removal of the existing silt to the previous dredge depth of -4ft MLW within the lateral/access channels and 100 feet into the interior canals. Design Contract: TBD, Design/Permitting Schedule: May 2014 – Fall 2015, Procurement Process: Fall 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Late 2015

Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) proposed an alternate approach that will improve navigation and yield cost savings over time through reduction of maintenance dredging needs. The approach includes identifying/combining multiple canals into single channels extending to the river.

The County reviewed the preliminary plan set and issued a revised task order to Coastal Engineering Consultants to proceed with the additional survey and design work. CEC completed the additional survey and alternate design alignments depicting the proposed connector channels. This work will be reviewed with the MSBU Committee to seek direction on the desired approach to re-align the canals or proceed with the routine maintenance dredging program.

**Pirate Harbor Access Channel** – Dredging provides safe navigation for citizens who utilize the waterways. This project provides for engineering, design and permitting to dredge 2,300 feet of access channel that was not covered under previous permitting. This project was originally presented to FDEP in 2003/04 however, at that time, FDEP did not view this project as favorable and it was removed from the original contract. Now that the Pirate Harbor rock ledges have been removed, the engineering and design of the Pirate Harbor Access Channel has been added to the previous contract and will require a standard general permit. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 4/22/2014 – Early 2016, Procurement: Summer 2016, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2016

The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application is nearing completion. The site visit to gather data for the Unified Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) analysis and the search for possible mitigation sites was conducted by Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) and the FDEP on Oct. 29, 2015. The search for potential mitigation sites did not find enough suitable areas within the vicinity of the project area, thus a wider search area will be examined by CEC using aerial photography.

FDEP completed the UMAM ranking on the seagrass impacts from the proposed dredging. CEC is currently investigating alternative sites for creating a seagrass mitigation project (e.g., fill blow-holes / prop-scars). Additional discussions with FDEP on the mitigation options will ensue once CEC identifies these alternative sites after which the UMAM analysis can be completed by the County and FDEP. The ERP application will then be completed and submitted to the agencies.

**South Gulf Cove Turn Basin** – The South Gulf Cove Waterway Committee requests to permit and construct a turn basin outside the lock complex to aid boaters in holding position while the lock is in use. From outside the lock the only existing location for vessels, of any substantial size and draft, to hold position is in the channel. Due to the channel width, this poses a potential hazard notably during high winds or seas. The creation of a turn basin will aid boaters by providing sufficient space to hold position until the lock is free of other vessels. Design Contract: Johnson Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 06/01/2013 – Early 2015, Procurement Process: Early 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Early 2015

The FL Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit was issued, however the permit application is still under review by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE.) Due to the volume being dredged, the ACOE must seek approval from National Marine Fisheries (NMF.)

Johnson Engineering is making every attempt to work with the ACOE and NMF to expedite the process; Johnson Engineering has been in contact with NMF regarding the Smalltooth Sawfish. This is a requirement for the ACOE permit as the area falls within the boundaries of the Smalltooth Sawfish Critical Habitat.

The ACOE indicated that the permit application review is nearing completion.

Upon receipt of the ACOE permit, this project will go out to bid for construction.

**Stump Pass 10 Year Beach and Inlet Management Plan** – This project provides for continued monitoring, as required by permitting, for dredging Stump Pass that re-established the 1980 channel alignment and provided for re-nourishment of critically eroded beaches. Maintenance dredging of Stump Pass and beach re-nourishment will be conducted approximately every three years. An engineered structure will be installed at Stump Pass to improve program performance. In the permitting process, an Adaptive Management Plan Strategy will be employed to provide options for modifications to structure(s) placed with initial construction, or installation of additional structures in the future, in response to beach and inlet management activities and storm erosion impacts. Design Contract: Coastal Engineering, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/16/2012 – July 2015, Procurement Process: Summer 2015, Projected Start of Construction: November 2015

After reviewing the proposed alternatives, the Florida Park Service prefers a rock terminal groin sited as far south as practicable. Coastal Engineering Consultants (CEC) completed a project modeling study to determine how far south it can be placed to minimize impacts. The results were provided to the State agencies responsible for review and comment.

The result of this modeling showed that reducing the height of the structure by 1.5 feet did not affect the performance and decreased any negative impacts downstream of the structure. However, the State Park Service did not choose this as their desired configuration. They asked for a design that would increase the amount of sand placement upstream of the structure, but the modeling showed that this would be more costly and could have negative impacts on the down drift beaches and the pass itself.

CEC submitted draft t-groin plans to FDEP in response to a Request for Additional Information (RAI.) The FDEP issued a second RAI to which the CEC and County staff are preparing a response including: minor drawing edits, minor changes to the biological monitoring program, formal public noticing, erosion control line process for sand placement, and terminal groin installation on the Stump Pass Beach State Park.

### **Landscaping Projects**

The new annual contract for landscape management began in South Gulf Cove, via the South Gulf Cove Beautification MSBU.

### **Maintenance & Operations**

Jan. 7 – 13, 2015: 38 new work requests were received; most were for illegal dumping & brush cutting however a few requests came in to repair broken sidewalk sections and pot holes.

Drainage line & grade:	11,100 SF in Harbour Heights 12,600 SF in Greater Port Charlotte 11,300 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte 8,350 SF in Gulf Cove
Large pipe install:	88 LF in Englewood East
Small pipe install:	114 LF in Greater Port Charlotte 32 LF in Road & Bridge South – Bermont Road
Menzie ditch cutting:	145,000 SF in West County Storm Water ditches (Gulf Cove area) 132,575 SF in Mid County Storm Water (on Kings Highway) 38,000 SF in South County Storm Water
Boom Mower:	Cut 52,076 CY in Greater Port Charlotte Cut 5,800 CY in Rotonda Heights Cut 16,100 CY in Road & Bridge South Cut 14,834 CY on Farabee Road
Shoulder Repair:	Maintained 1.4 miles of shoulder on Cornelius Boulevard & Chancellor Boulevard in Northwest Port Charlotte
Culvert Cleaning:	Cleaned 14 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte Cleaned 26 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte
Trash/Debris Removal from Right-of-Way:	6,580 pounds removed from Greater Port Charlotte

### **M&O Contracted Services**

- Miscellaneous sidewalk repairs called in by customers were completed in Greater Port Charlotte totaling 550

SF in four different locations for a total cost of repairs at \$4,932.00

- Approximately 434,213 LF of vegetation was cut back in the ROW in Port Charlotte by the Power shearing contractor and approximately 586,000 LF remains to be cut for the year in Greater Port Charlotte.
- The Contractor for Mulching in the ROW has mobilized and is starting work in North West Port Charlotte Zone 3; this operation will be ongoing for the next few weeks.
- The Specialty Mowing contractor has started the rounds for January and is currently mowing the medians in Greater Port Charlotte in several locations.

### **Other Projects**

**Harbour Heights Median Improvements** - This project consists of installing curbing, irrigation and landscaping within the existing medians on Sunnybrook Road and Broadpoint Drive. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering, Design/Permitting: 6/27/14 – Early 2015, Procurement: TBD, Construction: TBD

The design team surveyed the area. The 90% design plans were received and are under review. This project has been re-assigned from Tara Musselman to Roy Benjamin.

**Sunshine Lake Recharge Wells** – Upon completion of the Sunshine Lake Algae Removal project, the County shall initiate installation of two recharge wells to maintain active water flow through the lake. A recharge well will be located at the north end of Sunshine Lake and a second adjacent to McGuire Park. Design Contract: RMA Geologic Consultants, Design/Permitting Schedule: 04/01/2013 – 07/31/2013, Procurement Process: TBD, Projected Start of Construction: TBD

The bid documents for construction are being finalized and will be submitted to the Purchasing Department by Jan. 30, 2015.

### **Tourism**

The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau exhibited at the Florida Travel Showcase in partnership with Fishermen's Village and the LaQuinta Inn & Suites last week (Jan. 13). This consumer travel show, held in The Villages which is a community of over 100,000 located 2 ½ hours north just off I-75, attracted approximately 2,000 vacation seekers interested in Florida-based getaways. The Bureau distributed more than 500 Visitor Guides and expects to add over 1,000 contacts to its leisure travel database for future electronic marketing endeavors. Staff fielded a variety of detailed questions about our destination including inquiries relating to our beaches, golf, accommodations, fishing, kayaking, events, and nature tours.

### **Utilities (CCU)**

A joint partnership between, the University of Florida Extension Services, their Master Gardeners, and Charlotte County Utilities has resulted in being recognized at the state-wide level for their Florida Friendly Landscaping efforts.

Two homes and six public utility landscapes have met the state's Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ criteria. Now recognized as Florida-Friendly Yards by Charlotte Counties' Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program, the recognition follows visits made to each yard and seeing what environmentally-friendly practices were adopted. Examples include: minimizing the use of potable water for irrigation, avoiding excess runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides washing off the property and creating habitat for wildlife. Owners of Florida-Friendly Yards receive a sign to display identifying the landscape as a "Florida-Friendly Yard" and a certificate.

To learn more about this designation visit: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/recognitions.htm>